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To be reviewed.
- WAHA, R. DE. *Die Nationalökonomie in Frankreich*. (Stuttgart: F. Enke. 1910. Pp. xix, 540. 16 m.)  
To be reviewed.

### Economic History and Geography

*Slavery as an Industrial System. Ethnological Researches*. By DR. H. J. NIEBOER. Second, revised edition. (The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff. 1910. Pp. xx, 474.)

The first edition of this important study appeared in 1900, and it at once took rank as the most thorough and scientific book on those parts of the subject of slavery which it covered. The works of Cairnes, Ingram, Letourneau and Tourmagne are either fragmentary or unscientific. Although the author asserts that the present edition has been thoroughly revised, a careful comparison

with the first issue reveals relatively little recasting either of form or substance. Some new descriptive literature which has become available since 1900 has been consulted and certain features of the interpretative portion have been modified, but in the main the book remains as it was. The author does not claim to have exhausted the subject, indeed he expressly states that some portions are reserved for later treatment, but he has made what will probably be the final study of those portions which he does cover. The mere list of authorities used, mostly ethnological literature and travels, occupies twenty-five pages of the text.

There are two unequal parts, the descriptive and the theoretical. While specifically disclaiming the materialistic interpretation of history as "unproved" and "one-sided," Nieboer has adopted a point of view which is frankly and wholly economic in accounting for the origin of slavery, its forms and its abolition. Briefly stated, his theory is that slavery depends on how a tribe gets its subsistence. For purposes of scientific exactness slavery is to be clearly distinguished from other forms of dependence such as the subjection of woman and serfdom. In fact "slavery proper does not exist where there are none but female slaves."

The field of investigation is limited strictly to savage or barbarous tribes. There is no discussion of slavery among the ancient classical nations, nor is there any attention given to western European states, except that three sections are devoted to serfdom in the mediaeval period for the purpose of comparing the systems of land-holding with those of barbarian tribes. There is abundant space devoted to America but it has to do with the Indians. After an exhaustive study of all existing primitive groups to establish the existence or absence of slavery, Nieboer proceeds to an interpretation of the relation of slavery to economic stages and modes of life. Five economic stages are recognized within the range of culture which the book covers, hunting and fishing, pastoral nomadism, and three stages of agriculture. In a hunting economy little use can be made of slave labor, though some fishing tribes keep slaves. Slavery is most likely to flourish where men live in fixed habitations, where they live in large groups, where food is abundant, and where the preserving of food is practiced. Within the area of savage or barbarous life, trade, industry and capital accumulation favor slave-keeping; but where skilled labor is wanted, slavery is of course not profitable, nor does it flourish where some specialized interest like militarism pre-

vails. In the agricultural period its existence depends largely on free land and, in general, Nieboer concludes that it is rarely prominent among people with closed resources. In brief, slavery is least likely to be profitable where subsistence is difficult to obtain. Consequently the land question, both as regards quality of land and systems of land-holding, is one of fundamental importance.

The descriptive portions of the book are less satisfying than the theoretical. The authorities used are the best available and an enormous amount of labor is represented in the results obtained, but the arrangement is somewhat stiff and mechanical. It is in clear interpretation and lucid, usable conclusions that the author excels. The fact that the book was written in English by a Dutch scholar gives it special interest. Only a few minor slips are observable in the text, e. g. "Europa," "bij" instead of by, "Shahnees," etc. There is an elaborate index and a map showing the distribution of slave-keeping tribes.

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*A Suffolk Hundred in the Year 1283.* By EDGAR POWELL. (London: Cambridge University Press. 1910. Pp. xxxiv, 121, 38 tables.)

Not the least useful part of Mr. Powell's earlier volume, *The Rising in East Anglia in 1381*, is the transcript of tax lists printed in the appendix. His new book is primarily documentary, the introduction being short and the notes brief. It is concerned with two statistical records, to the more important of which Mr. Hudson called attention in 1899. In this we have what seems to be the only extant detailed return for a tax of one thirtieth levied in 1283 to finance Edward I's Welsh wars. Upon some seventy membranes are recounted by parishes the grain and livestock of each person upon whom the tax fell in the hundred of Blackbourne, Suffolk. The value of all items is given. Instead of transcribing the roll literally, Mr. Powell has taken the trouble to arrange its information in serviceable tables, to which he has added summaries and notes. The task has been one of much labor carefully performed.

Study of such local documents as this is much to be desired in early English social and economic history. At present we are in uncertainty about population, distribution of wealth, land tenures and changing personal status. The inventory of 1283 re-